All rights belong to the monhwogo, so remember to buy o copy of The Queen's Knight volume 8 (the quolity will be HEAPS better ^-^)

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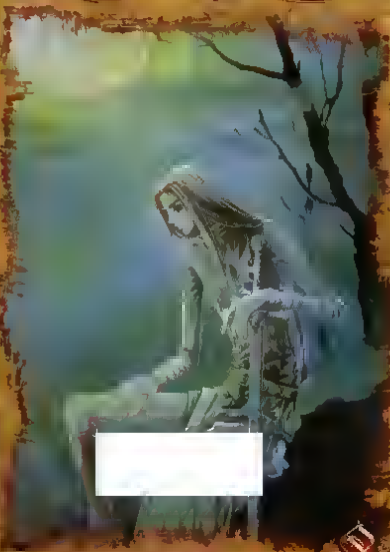
Reod from left to right

The Queen's Knight



Kim Kang Won

Intrigue

WE APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR LONG JOURNEY TO THE FOREST OF LIGHT, SIR HEN HYPERIUS...
WELCOME.
I THOUGHT THIS WAS A PRIVATE MEETING...
THE FAIRY KING, RULER OF THIS FOREST HAS COME TO GREET US..
NOW WE SHALL BE ON OUR WAY
NO ONE CAN EAVESDROP ON YOUR CONVERSATION NOR CAN ANYONE INTERFERE.. YOU CAN REST EASY AND SPEAK IN PRIVATE HERE.

HEMELI ARE YOU ONE OF THE FAIRIES?
HA HA HA....! NO. I AM NOT KIN TO THE FAIRIES... SCHILLER IS NOT A FAIRY EITHER.
BUT I SUPPOSE YOU CAN'T DENY THAT HE DOES HAVE SOME FAIRY BLOOD IN HIM..

FOR COUNTLESS AGES, WE'VE BEEN LIVING WITH THE LIGHT CLAN. YOU COULD SAY THAT WE'VE BEEN INFLUENCED QUITE A BIT BY THEM...
FAIRIES OF THE LIGHT CLAN CANNOT RAISE THEIR CHILDREN NOT EVEN AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO THEM.
SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, THEY'VE LEFT THEIR CHILDREN IN MY VILLAGE...
FOR THAT REASON, THE FAIRY CHILDREN AND THE VILLAGE CHILDREN ALL GREW UP TOGETHER.

HERE WINE MADE BY THE FAIRIES THEMSELVES.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE A LOT CLOSER TO THE LIGHT CLAN THAN MOST.
IN ADDITION, THERE ARE A FEW INSTANCES OF MIXING BLOOD...
HONESTLY...

HEMEL--BEFORE COMING HERE, I RESEARCHED THE HISTORY OF PHANTASMA AND RENO'S BACKGROUND
BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD I SOUGHT I COULDN'T FIND ANY INFORMATION ON THE PAST LORD OF THE DUNGEON MANOR, RENHART RENO GROSS.
..OR THE PRESENT LORD, RENO.
IF RENO IS HUMAN, AND NOT A PART OF THE LIGHT CLAN— HOW DOES HE AVOID BEING INFLUENCED BY PHANTASMA'S TIME OR AGE...
LIKE YOU OR THE OTHER LIGHT CLAN MEMBERS?
IS THIS ALL POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE PAST QUEENS' CURSE?

MY FATHER PASSED AWAY TOO SUDDENLY... WITHOUT TELLING ME ANYTHING AT ALL.
IF WHAT I'VE JUST TOLD YOU IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH YOU CALLING ME HERE...
...THEN I MUST KNOW! HEMEL, THERE ARE SO MANY TRUTHS THAT LIE HIDDEN BENEATH WHAT'S ACTUALLY REVEALED TO THE WORLD...

EHRIN HWERUSUTE...
...CAN YOU TELL ME WITHOUT ANY DOUBT IN YOUR MIND THAT THE QUEEN'S GROWTH WAS DUE TO YOU?
!
OF COURSE.

THEN, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
ARE YOU WILLING TO DO ANYTHING FOR THE SAKE OF THE QUEEN...NOT AS ONE LOYAL TO THE CROWN, BUT AS A MAN WHO LOVES HER?

LET'S JUST SAY...
...CAN YOU PERSUADE THE QUEEN TO PLUNGE A DAGGER INTO RENO'S HEART?

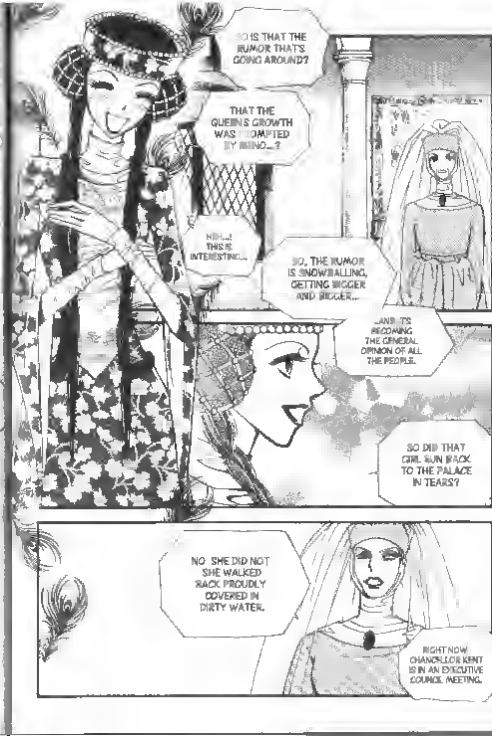
IN ADDITION...

...HAVE YOU COME TO ME TODAY AS A MAN WHO DESIRES NOTHING BUT TO PROTECT THE WOMAN HE LOVES?
OR HAVE YOU COME TO ME AS THE HEAD OF YOUR FAMILY AND FUTURE CHANCELLOR,
WHO WANTS ONLY TO SAVE PHANTASMA FROM ITS DESTINY?
BA-THUMM
SO WHICH IS IT? MY ANSWER DEPENDS ON YOUR RESPONSE, EHREN HWERUSUTE!!

WE'RE JUST GONNA TRY THIS, WHATEVER THE OUTCOME!
IT'S GOOD, EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND RIGHT NOW, YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH.
SCHOOLS...
HOSPITALS...
PLAY-GROUNDS...

YOUR MAJESTY!
WHO THREW THAT?!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!!
STOP WHERE YOU ARE, YOU LITTLE TWERPS!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YOUR HIGHNESS?
UH-HUH...
IF WE COULD JUST BORROW SOMEONE'S HOUSE FOR A MOMENT...
JUST TO WASH HER OFF...EVEN A LITTLE BIT...!
AHEM...

NAUPH! I HEAR THE QUEEN'S IN LOVE WITH RENO...!
HOW CAN SHE BE SMALL-LEGGED ENOUGH TO WALK AROUND IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?!
QUEEN? WHAT QUEEN? SHE'S JUST A KITTY IN HEAT...!
HOW COME THE GHOSTS DON'T SPIRIT RENO AWAY?
I'M SO TIRED! I'M SICK OF LIVING LIKE THIS!


SO IS THAT THE RUMOR THAT'S GOING AROUND?
THAT THE QUEEN'S GROWTH WAS STUNTED BY RENO...?
HIH...! THIS IS INTERESTING...
SO, THE RUMOR IS SNOWBALLING, GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER...
...AND IT'S BECOMING THE GENERAL OPINION OF ALL THE PEOPLE.
SO DID THAT GIRL RUN BACK TO THE PALACE IN TEARS?
NO. SHE DID NOT. SHE WALKED BACK PROUDLY COVERED IN DIRTY WATER.
RIGHT NOW, CHANCELLOR KENT IS IN AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

WHAT?!
WHY ISN'T EHREN ON THE ROSTER TO RECEIVE A TITLE OF NOBILITY?
WHAT TITLE? HE DESERTED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HUNT!
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU FAVOR EHREN--BUT HOW CAN YOU INTERFERE IN THESE AFFAIRS?
DON'T EVEN SAY THAT! EHREN FOUGHT SO DILIGENTLY THAT HE ALMOST PAID WITH HIS LIFE!

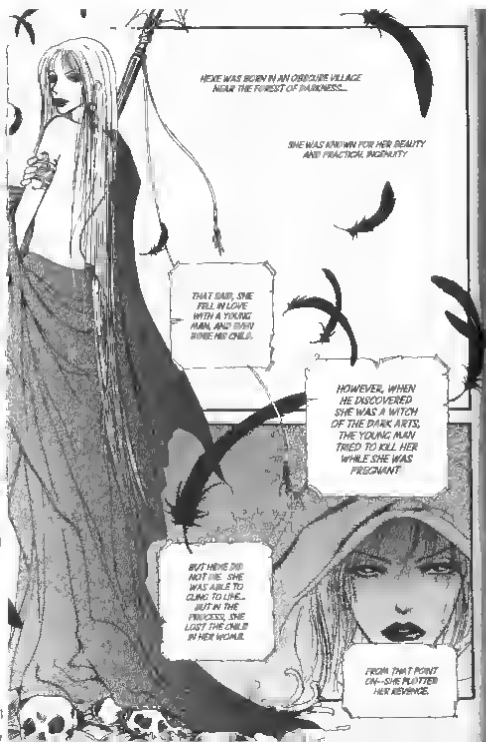
BESIDES, HE'S YOUR OWN NEPHEW...! SAYING HE RAN AWAY IS A BIT HARSH. DON'T YOU THINK?!
YUNA, WHAT A SAD HYSTERICAL...
JUST WHAT IS THIS?!
WHY DO YOU KEEP GOING AGAINST MY COMMANDS TO BUILD A SCHOOL AND A HOSPITAL IN THIS COUNTRY?!
IF SHE'S QUEEN, SHE SHOULD JUST SIT QUIETLY IN THE PALACE, LOOKING PRETTY! WHY IS SHE INTERFERING?!
I WONDER ALL THE PEOPLE ARE AGAINST HIM...
AGAINST
WHAT?!

IT LOOKS LIKE A DAUGHTER REBELLING AGAINST HER FATHER.
IN ANY CASE, SHE'S REALLY SOMETHING.
I WILL DILIGENTLY SUCCEED IN BUILDING A SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL! EAT THAT!
THAT'S HOW IT APPEA...
AHA...

HA... YOU ARE EHREN HYPERSUITE TO THE BONE... ! YOU TRULY ARE THE CHANCELLOR'S SUCCESSOR.
IN PHANTASMA'S PRESENT SITUATION...
...HOW MANY THINGS CAN WE SOLVE WITH LOVE ALONE?
DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF LOVE, EHREN
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT LOVE IS THE VERY THING THAT BRINGS SPRING TO PHANTASMA?

History of Phantasma 7

THIS STORY BEGINS AT A TIME WHEN PHANTASMA ENJOYED ETERNAL SPRING— A COMPLETE HARMONY BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS.
ONE YEAR... BABIES BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR FROM CERTAIN VILLAGES... OR SERIOUS DISEASES AFFLICTED THE INFANTS...
THE BABY!!
MY BABY HAS BEEN SNATCHED!!
MY BABY!!
ALL SORTS OF HORRIBLE THINGS WERE HAPPENING TO THE CHILDREN.
THE QUEEN EVEN ISSUED A COMMAND TO INVESTIGATE THE REASON BEHIND THE HORRORS...
MUCH LATER, IT WAS REALIZED THAT THE CAUSE...
...WAS HEXE, THE WITCH OF THE DARK ARTS, USING HER BLACK MAGIC.


HEXE WAS BORN IN AN OBSCURE VILLAGE NEAR THE FOREST OF DARKNESS...
SHE WAS KNOWN FOR HER BEAUTY AND PRACTICAL INGENUITY.
THAT SAID, SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH A YOUNG MAN, AND EVEN BORE HIS CHILD.
HOWEVER, WHEN HE DISCOVERED SHE WAS A WITCH OF THE DARK ARTS, THE YOUNG MAN TRIED TO KILL HER WHILE SHE WAS PREGNANT.
BUT HEXE DID NOT DIE. SHE WAS ABLE TO CLING TO LIFE... BUT IN THE PROCESS, SHE LOST THE CHILD IN HER WOMB.
FROM THAT POINT ON--SHE PLOTTED HER REVENGE.

SHE TOOK HER ANGER OUT ON NEWBORN BABIES AND LITTLE CHILDREN, SPREADING MALADIES AND CAUSING ALL SORTS OF ATROCITIES...
...WITH NO REGARD FOR WHETHER THEY WERE HUMANS, FAIRIES, OR BEASTS.

THE FAIRIES DECIDED THAT THEY COULD NO LONGER SIT IDLY BY... AND THEY MADE PLANS TO CAPTURE HEXE... BUT SHE WENT INTO HIDING.
THE WORLD QUIETED AND PEACE WAS ONCE AGAIN RESTORED.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT WAS BELIEVED...

WHAT'S GOING ON?
SIRE... TH-THERE'S A WOMAN HERE.
Reinhart Alone Gross Lord of the village of Dunkkar in Northern Phantasma
IS SHE DEAD?
SHE'S STILL ALIVE!

쿠두두두
쿠두두두
LORD REINHART IS BACK!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE? SHOULDN'T YOU BE ATTENDING THE QUEEN?
HA HA HA! IT'S BEEN A WHILE, REINHART! SEE YOU STILL ENJOY HUNTING.
AND PHANTASMA'S GREATEST HORSE, PAPHNIEL IS LOOKING FINE AS ALWAYS! IT REALLY IS...WORTHY OF EVERYONE'S ENVY...

DURING THE UPCOMING THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL...
...THE QUEEN WILL BE MAKING AN IMPORTANT DECISION BEFORE ALL THE LORDS AND NOBLES.
OUR BEAUTIFUL AND YOUNG QUEEN...
...HAS ALWAYS TAKEN A KEEN INTEREST IN YOU. YOU KNEW THIS, DIDN'T YOU, REINHART?
PERHAPS SHE HAS BEEN WATCHING YOU WIN TOURNAMENT AFTER TOURNAMENT. SHE SEEMS TO HAVE SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR YOU... HEH HEH HEH...!

IT'S DEFINITELY TIME THE QUEEN GETS A...AHEM... HUSBAND
IS SHE'N HWEIRUSUTE'S SON, KENT, AS LOUD AS EVER?
HA HA HA! IT'S JUST SO IRONIC THAT A TIMID, AND FAINT HEARTED MAN LIKE KENT IS A PART OF THAT GREAT FAMILY LINE. !
I'LL SAY... TO THINK THAT KENT ACTUALLY WANTS TO COMPETE IN THE UPCOMING TOURNAMENT! HA HA HA!

MY LORD...!
EVERYONE--LEAVE MY PRESENCE.
AH!
YOU... ?! I WILL TAKE YOU TO ELYSIAN BEFORE THE QUEEN.
ONLY THE QUEEN CAN PERMIT THE MARRIAGE OF A LORD.

WHO YOU ARE AND WHERE YOU'RE FROM...
...IS NOT IMPORTANT TO ME.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME ANYTHING, I WON'T EVEN ASK.
I WANT YOU TO HAVE MY CHILD--A STRONG, MIGHTY SON.
THE SUCCESSOR OF DUNKKAR VILLAGE...

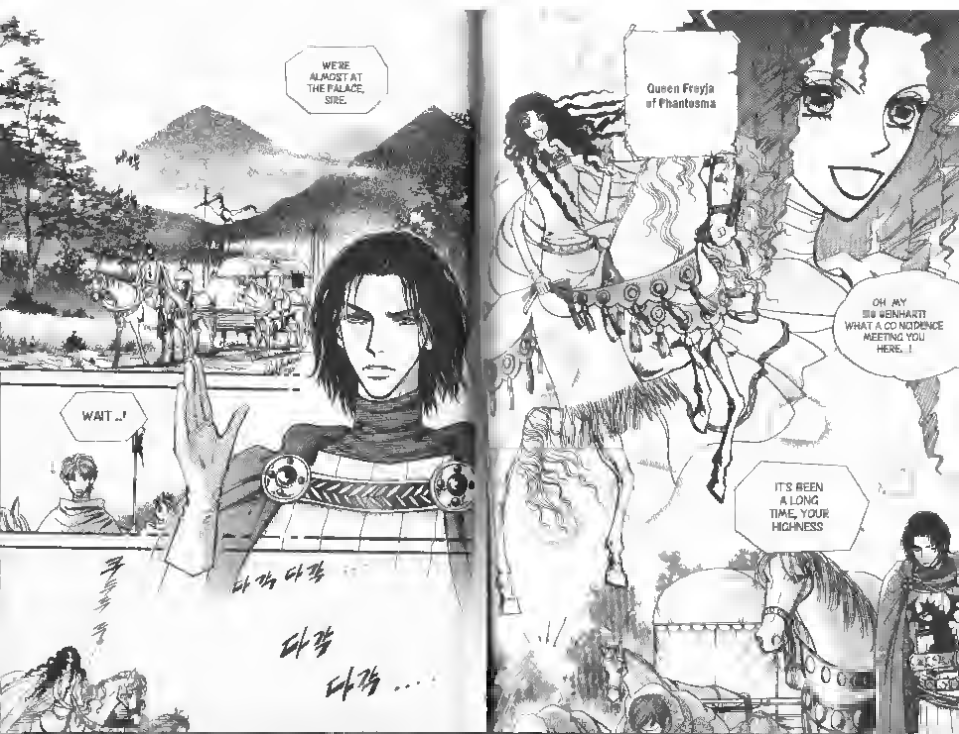
UGH...
MY BABY... G-GIVE ME BACK MY B-BABY
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU...
GIVE ME BACK MY BABY!
MY BABY GIVE ME BACK. MY BABY!
YOU MUST DIE!! YOU MONSTER!!!!
YOU WANT TO GIVE BIRTH TO A MONSTER?!
YOU THINK I'M JUST GOING TO LET YOU HAVE THE BABY?!
YOU HID THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A WITCH JUST SO YOU COULD HAVE A BABY?!
AND YOU...
AND EVERYONE ELSE
STOP...
STOP IT NOW...!
I CAN NEVER HAVE CHILDREN AGAIN...
I CAN NEVER GIVE BIRTH TO A CHILD EVER AGAIN...!

PERHAPS
DARK ENERGY HAS SEEPED INTO EVERY PART OF YOUR BODY FROM OVERUSING THE DARK ARTS.
...SO YOU MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO HAVE A CHILD. AND EVEN IF YOU DO, IT'LL MOST LIKELY BE A MONSTER OR A DARK CREATURE.

WHO'S THERE?!
OH YE ENSNARED BY THE DARKNESS...
YOUR COMPLAINTS AND FURY HAVE STIRRED ALL OF HADES. YOUR RAGE HAS DRAWN ME HERE
I WILL GIVE YOU A CHILD...
...IF YOU DESIRE...

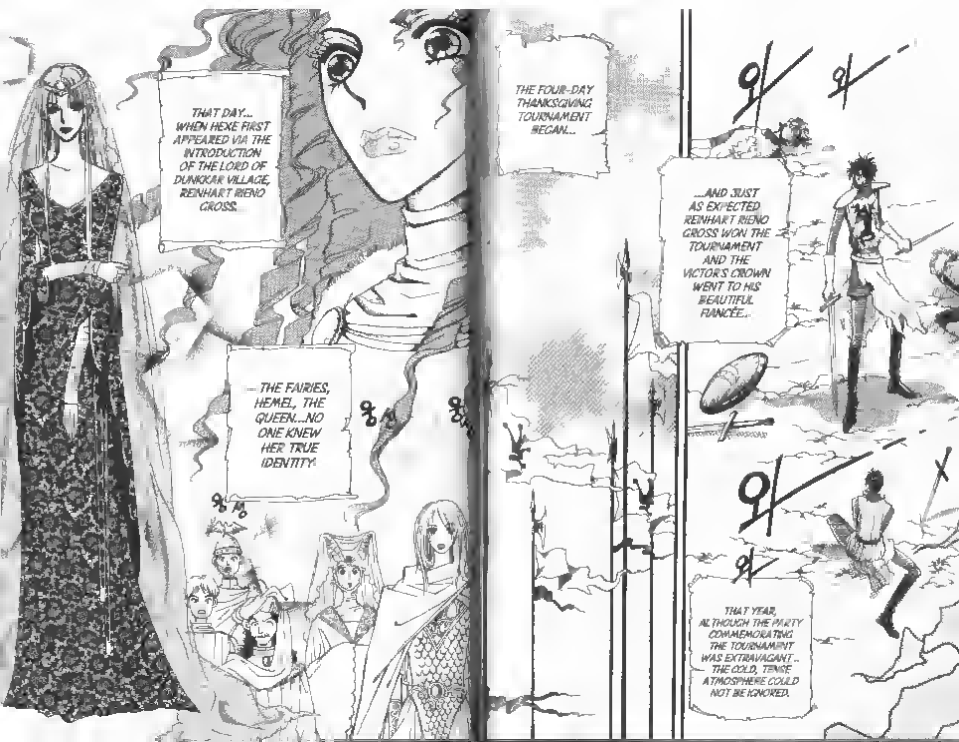
WH-WHAT...?
THAT IS... IF YOU PROMISE ME ONE THING...
NO...
NO! NOT A MONSTER!
I'LL HAVE A MONSTER OR A STRANGE CREATURE!
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE BIRTH TO A BEAST!
DON'T WORRY... YOU'LL HAVE A HANDSOME, HEALTHY BABY BOY...
A... BABY BOY?
A HEALTHY, NORMAL...
THAT'S RIGHT. IF YOU PROMISE ME...
PROMISE?
WHAT KIND...
...OF PROMISE...?

YOU MUST SEND YOUR SON TO ME WHEN HE REACHES THE AGE OF NINETEEN!
GASP!
HUFF!
HUFF
HUFF!
HUFF!


WE'RE ALMOST AT THE PALACE, SIRE.
WAIT..!
다깍 다깍
다깍
다깍 . . .
Queen Freyja of Phantesma
OH MY SIR REINHART! WHAT A COINCIDENCE MEETING YOU HERE..!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, YOUR HIGHNESS

I'VE REALLY MISSED YOU
OTHER PEOPLE VISIT THE PALACE FREQUENTLY...
BUT YOU ONLY STOP BY DURING THANKSGIVING. YOU'RE HORRIBLE...!
RILT LORD OF NIDRIHEI VILLAGE.
NEXT... SIR KEINHART REND CROSS OF DUNKKAR VILLAGE.
DID YOU HEAR? THE QUEEN ALREADY SENT HER ATTENDANT TO EXPRESS HER WISHES.
I'M SO JEALOUS... DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE LORD OF DUNKKAR VILLAGE WILL BECOME THE QUEEN'S HUSBAND?
YOUNG QUEEN FREYJA SEEMS TO HAVE FINALLY CHOSEN HER HUSBAND

I AM VERY EXCITED TO SEE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE TOURNAMENT. WHO WILL BE THE ONE TO RECEIVE YOUR CROWN OF VICTORY?
I WILL DO MY BEST TO FULFILL YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
MAY YOU ALSO BE KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE ME YOUR BLESSING FOR MY MARRIAGE?
MA-MARRIAGE...?
I INTRODUCE TO YOU ALL THE FUTURE MISTRESS OF DUNKKAR VILLAGE...


THAT DAY... WHEN HEXE FIRST APPEARED VIA THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LORD OF DUNKIRK VILLAGE, REINHART RIENO GROSS.
—THE FAIRIES, HEMEL, THE QUEEN...NO ONE KNEW HER TRUE IDENTITY.
THE FOUR-DAY THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT BEGAN...
...AND JUST AS EXPECTED REINHART RIENO GROSS WON THE TOURNAMENT AND THE VICTOR'S CROWN WENT TO HIS BEAUTIFUL FIANCÉE...
THAT YEAR, ALTHOUGH THE PARTY COMMEMORATING THE TOURNAMENT WAS EXTRAVAGANT... THE COLD, TENSE ATMOSPHERE COULD NOT BE IGNORED.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU STILL HAVEN'T DISCOVERED ANYTHING ABOUT THAT WOMAN?
HOW DOES THAT MAKE ANY SENSE? YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO SHE IS OR WHERE SHE'S FROM?!
QUEEN FREYJA CONTINUED TO DELAY GIVING HER PERMISSION FOR THE LORD OF DUNKKAR TO GET MARRIED.
IS THAT SO?
EVERYONE HAD AN IDEA AS TO HER REASONS, BUT NO ONE DARED SAY IT OUT LOUD
WHY?
MY GLASS... FEELS. .

PLEASE PERMIT ME TO LEAVE THE PALACE TOMORROW
MY FIANCÉE IS PREGNANT AND I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO MY VILLAGE BEFORE TRAVELING IS TOO DIFFICULT FOR HER.
D-DID YOU JUST SAY... PREGNANT? THAT WOMAN?
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS...SO PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR PERMISSION TO MARRY HER.
YOUR HIGHNESS

REINHART!
REINHART!
ONE MOMENT...!
PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU— DON'T LEAVE! PLEASE...!!
I MEAN... WHAT ABOUT ME...?

I'M ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT YOU...ALWAYS...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE... WHOM I WANT TO TAKE AS MY HUSBAND...
IN ALL THE PAST THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS, I'VE SEARCHED FOR YOU ONLY...
I WANTED TO MATURE QUICKLY...
—BECAUSE I WANTED TO BECOME A WOMAN FIT FOR YOU...SO I COULD RECEIVE YOUR LOVE.
I FINALLY THOUGHT THAT THE TIME HAD NEARED...
YOUR HIGHNESS...

...I'M NOT A STALLION TO SIMPLY CHOOSE FROM YOUR STABLE.
YOU--!!
꺄악!

I WILL NEVER... NEVER... PERMIT IT!!
I WILL NEVER PERMIT THE CHILD IN THAT WOMAN'S WOMB TO HAVE YOUR NAME OR YOUR LAND!

IT'S...VERY STRANGE...
THERE PAYS. I FREQUENTLY GET AN OMINOUS FEELING WHEN I'M IN THE PALACE.
RIGHT NOW, I JUST FELT A POWERFUL SURGE OF DARK ENERGY.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE WAS A PROPHECY MADE BY A SAGE WHO LIVES NEAR THE FAIRY FOREST.
THAT AFTER TEN FULL MOONS... A CURSE WILL BEFALL US ALL...

I RECENTLY READ THE SAME SIGNS IN THE STARS...
YOU TOO HEMEL?

THE REASON WHY PHANTASMA WAS ABLE TO ENJOY ETERNAL SPRING...
...WAS BECAUSE OF THE STRENGTH OF THE QUEENS, WHO ARE THE SUCCESSORS OF THE PEOPLE OF LIGHT.
BECAUSE OF THEM, THE LIGHT CONTINUED TO FLOURISH IN STRENGTH, DRIVING THE DARKNESS OUT...
THE PRESSURE WAS SO INTENSE, HOWEVER... THINGS WERE ON THE VERGE OF DISINTEGRATING...

FROM TODAY ON, A WORLD THAT EXISTS THANKS TO THE BALANCE OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS...
WE WERE ALSO TOLD SEQUOIA'S WERE CAUGHT SNOOPING THERE TO WITNESS THE DREADFUL EVENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
HOW CAN THIS BE...?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ELDER?
HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN...?

MY GOODNESS...
THE FORCES OF DARKNESS...THE SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE OF DARKNESS HAS BEEN CONCEIVED.
H-HOW COULD THIS...?
AH ...BUT I CAN'T SEE CLEARLY ENOUGH. IT'S BEING SHIELDED BY ANOTHER FORCE.
A GREAT SHIELD OF STRENGTH IS OBSTRUCTING A CLEAR VISION...

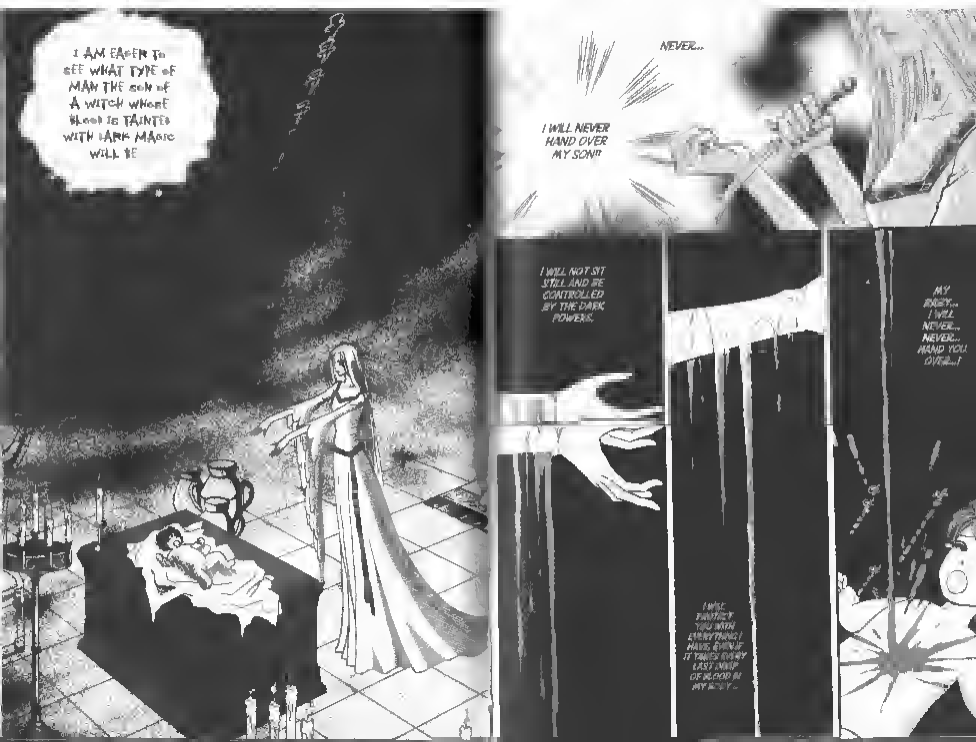
YOUR HIGHNESS... PLEASE GRANT SIR REINHART PERMISSION TO MARRY
SHUT UP ...!! I WILL NEVER DO THAT!!
THIS IS FOR YOUR SAKE, YOUR HIGHNESS. AT THIS TIME, ALL THE NOBLES ARE WATCHING YOUR EVERY MOVEMENT
YOUR CURRENT EMOTIONAL STATE WILL NOT PROVE BENEFICIAL TO YOU IN ANY WAY

PLEASE SHOW US A MORE MATURE APPEARANCE.
I WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
PLEASE TRUST ME. I, EHRIN INVERGUTE, CAN BE TRUSTED!... PLEASE...

AH... AH...
THE QUEEN GRANTED PERMISSION FOR THE LORD OF DUNKKAR VILLAGE TO GET MARRIED ..
AS REINHART FRIEND GROSS WAS RETURNING TO HIS VILLAGE, SHE SENT ASSASSINS FIVE TIMES TO HINDER HIM...
REGARDLESS, HE ARRIVED SAFELY AT DUNKKAR.
ANR...

...ON THE MOST OMINOUS, ILL-FATED NIGHT IN THE HISTORY OF PHANTASMAS' ETERNAL SPRING...
...WITH A SHRILL, PIERCING SHRIEK THAT SLICED THROUGH THE AIR, THE SON OF REINHART RENO GROSS, LORD OF DUNKKAR VILLAGE, WAS BORN.

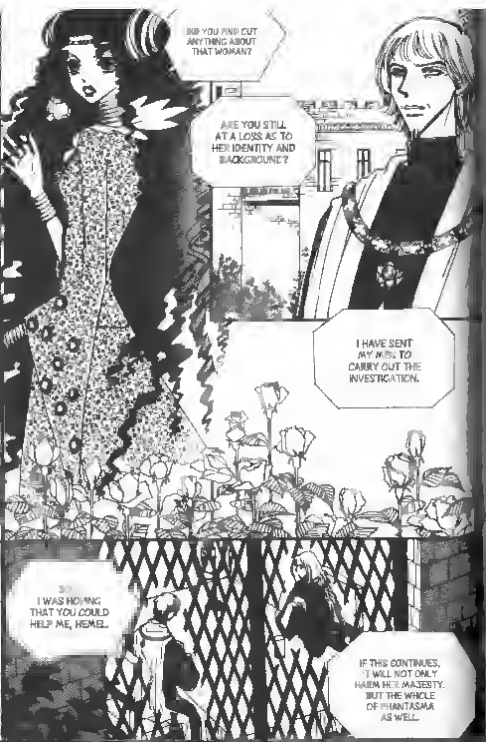
A HANDSOME HEALTHY BABY BOY...
DO NOT FORGET THE PROMISE YOU HAVE MADE ME...
WHEN HE REACHES THE AGE OF NINETEEN... HIS SOUL WILL BELONG TO ME....
UNTIL THEN LOVE HIM AND CARE FOR HIM ALL YOU WANT


I AM EAGER TO SEE WHAT TYPE OF MAN THE SON OF A WITCH WHOSE BLOOD IS TAINTED WITH DARK MAGIC WILL BE
NEVER...
I WILL NEVER HAND OVER MY SON!!
I WILL NOT SIT STILL AND BE CONTROLLED BY THE DARK POWERS.
I WILL PROTECT YOU WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE, EVEN IF IT TAKES EVERY LAST DROP OF BLOOD IN MY BODY...
MY BABY... I WILL NEVER... NEVER... HAND YOU OVER...!

WHETHER IT'S THE DEMON KING OF DARKNESS...OR AN ABSOLUTE POWER IN THIS WORLD...
...I WILL GIVE EVERYTHING I HAVE TO PROTECT YOU!!

JUST IMPRISONING A TAX IS TOO WEAK.
THE CITIZENS OF HIS VILLAGE ARE ALREADY LEAVING BECAUSE THE TAX IS TOO MUCH FOR THEM.
HOWEVER, RINO GROSS IS JUST AS SILENT AS EVER. HE SIMPLY BEARS THE NEW BURDEN.
I'LL SUFFOCATE HIM!
I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM SUFFER, JUST AS MUCH AS I'M SUFFERING RIGHT NOW ..!

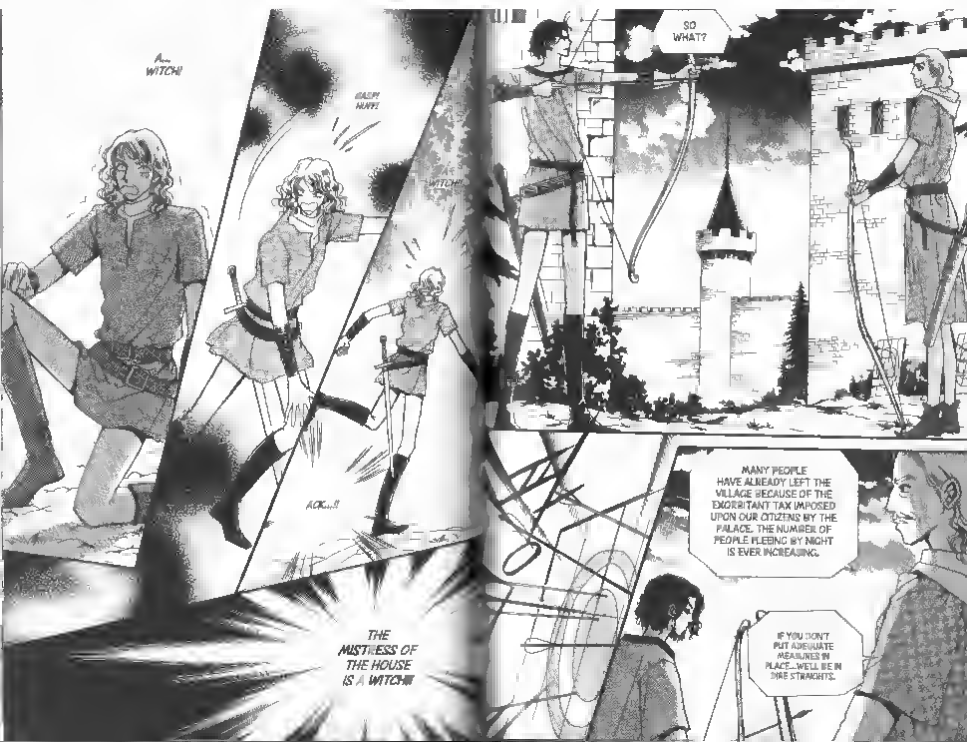
I HAVE SENT MY MEN TO CARRY OUT THE INVESTIGATION.
IF THIS CONTINUES, IT WILL NOT ONLY HARM HER MAJESTY BUT THE WHOLE OF PHANTASMA AS WELL.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
RENO GROSS...HIS WIFE, HIS SON...HIS ENTIRE FAMILY - I WANT YOU TO KILL THEM ALL.
THIS INCIDENT WILL CONSUME SIGNIFICANT TIME, AND THE CONSEQUENCES WILL IMPACT US GREATLY. THAT IS, IF YOU AGREE TO HELP ME.

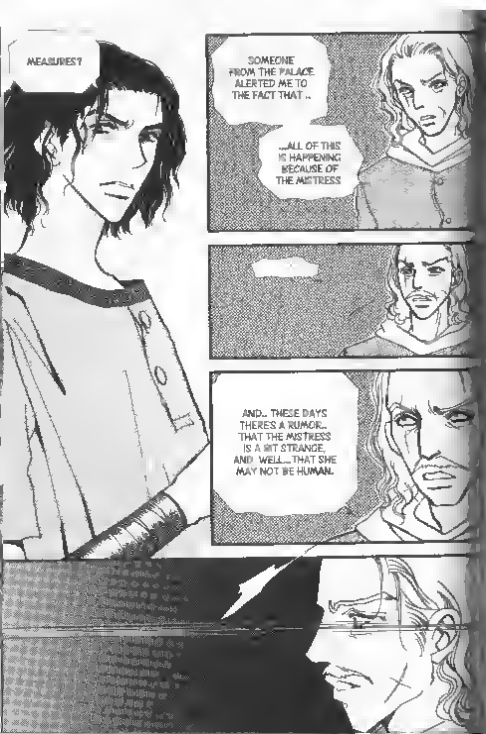

DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THAT WOMAN?
ARE YOU STILL AT A LOSS AS TO HER IDENTITY AND BACKGROUND?
I HAVE SENT MY MEN TO CARRY OUT THE INVESTIGATION.
I WAS HOPING THAT YOU COULD HELP ME, HEMEL.
IF THIS CONTINUES, I WILL NOT ONLY HARM HER MAJESTY, BUT THE WHOLE OF PHANTASMA AS WELL.

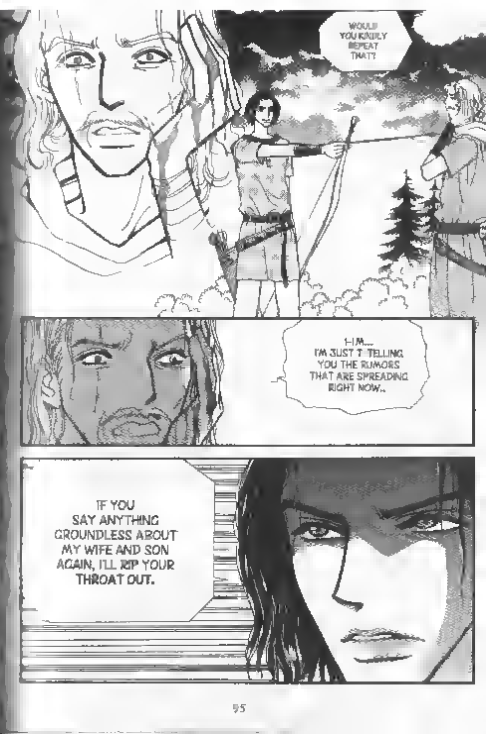
WE MUST QUICKLY RESOLVE THIS ISSUE WITH RENO GROSS AND HELP THE QUEEN MOVE ON.
I WANT PHANTASMA TO RETURN TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE— AN ABUNDANT AND TRANQUIL LAND.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
RENO GROSS...HIS WIFE, HIS SON, HIS ENTIRE FAMILY— I WANT YOU TO KILL THEM ALL.
THIS INCIDENT WILL CONSUME SIGNIFICANT TIME, AND THE CONSEQUENCES WILL IMPACT US GREATLY. THAT IS, IF YOU AGREE TO HELP ME...

IT SOUNDS AS IF YOU WANT ME TO DEVISE AN UNDERHANDED PLOT...
...AND USE MY POWERS TO HARM OTHERS.
IT'S UNREASONABLE FOR YOU TO ASK ME TO DO SUCH A THING...
...SIMPLY BECAUSE HER MAJESTY IS NOT HAPPY ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED.
IF YOU HAD A MORE VALID REASON, THEN MAYBE...
I'M... SCARED...
I'VE ALREADY BEEN ON EDGE...
A FEW MONTHS AGO, AFTER THE APPEARANCE OF AN OMINOUS STAR IN THE NIGHTH...
...I WAS ALREADY ON EDGE THINKING ABOUT THAT.

WHO'S THERE? REVEAL YOURSELF!
LORD RENO COMMANDED ME TO PROTECT YOU...
I'M ALL RIGHT YOU MAY RETURN. I'M JUST TAKING A WALK...
BUT...
I SAID YOU MAY RETURN. NOW STOP BOTHERING ME!
WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE PRINCESS?! SHE SHOULDN'T EVER HAVE WALKED WITH HOW...AND SHE'S CARRYING HIM, TOO...
I WONDER IF I'M SUPPOSED TO REPORT THINGS LIKE THIS TO THE PALACE...
A HUT...?


A... WITCH!
GASP! HUH?
WITCH!
ACK...!!
THE MISTRESS OF THE HOUSE IS A WITCH!!!
SO WHAT?
MANY PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY LEFT THE VILLAGE BECAUSE OF THE EXORBITANT TAX IMPOSED UPON OUR CITIZENS BY THE PALACE. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FLEEING BY NIGHT IS EVER INCREASING.
IF YOU DON'T PUT ADEQUATE MEASURES IN PLACE...WE'LL BE IN DIRE STRAITS.


MEASURES?
SOMEONE FROM THE PALACE ALERTED ME TO THE FACT THAT ..
...ALL OF THIS IS HAPPENING BECAUSE OF THE MISTRESS
AND.. THESE DAYS THERE'S A RUMOR.. THAT THE MISTRESS IS A BIT STRANGE. AND.. WELL... THAT SHE MAY NOT BE HUMAN.


WOULD YOU KINDLY REPEAT THAT?
I-I'M... I'M JUST T TELLING YOU THE RUMORS THAT ARE SPREADING RIGHT NOW..
IF YOU SAY ANYTHING GROUNDLESS ABOUT MY WIFE AND SON AGAIN, I'LL RIP YOUR THROAT OUT.

BRENO GROSS! WHAT ARE YOU HESITATING FOR? LEAVE THAT WOMAN! ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS LEAVE HER!!
THE QUEEN IS TAKING REVENGE BECAUSE OF HER FEELINGS TOWARD YOU! WHAT WILL YOU DO? WILL YOU JUST SINK LIKE THIS?
SIRE...

LIFE... I DON'T KNOW HOW I'SH SHOULD TELL YOU THIS...
WHAT'S WRONG?
THE M MISTRESS... IS...! M-MEAN... WELL... A BIT ST STRANGE...
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES...! SHE WAS CASTING SOME SORT OF SPELL ON YOUR CHILD!!

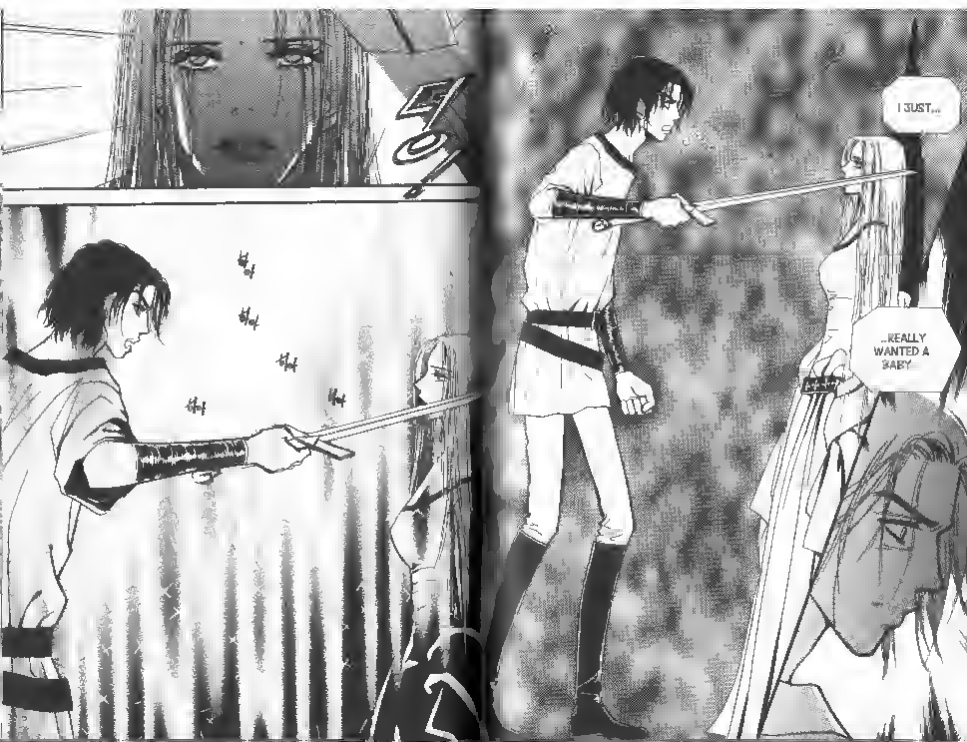
REALLY! I SAW IT OUT THERE WITH MY VERY OWN EYES!
IF SHE WASN'T A WITCH, WHY WOULD SHE DO SUCH QUEER THINGS?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, OUT THERE?!
TSK. THIS PARTICULAR PLACE.
WHAT IS ALL THIS?
TO BE HONEST...I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE MISTRESS FOR A WHILE.
EVERY DAY SHE SNEAKS OUT OF THE PALACE AND COMES TO THIS PLACE.

WHO TOLD YOU TO FOLLOW THE MISTRESS?
SIRE?
I'VE COMMITTED A GRAVE SIN, SIRE!
A WHILE AGO, A PALACE OFFICIAL CAME AND ASKED ME TO FOLLOW THE MISTRESS AND REPORT ON HER EVERY MOVEMENT...!
SO... DID YOU TELL THIS TO ANYONE ELSE?
N-NO ...I AS SOON AS I FOUND OUT, I CAME TO YO...

MISTRESS, THE YOUNG MASTER KEEPS CRYING! WHAT SHOULD I-
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU MAY LEAVE. THE BABY IS JUST A LITTLE TIRED.
OH, MY...! SHE...!

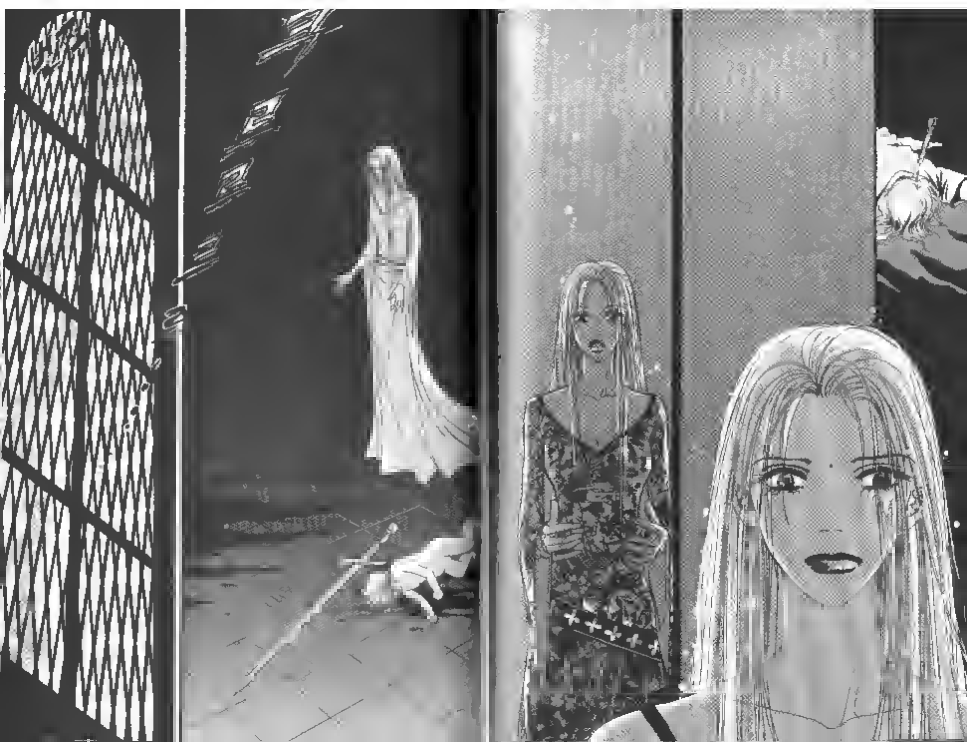
I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE, MILADY.
DARLING.
SOME FOOL SAID THAT MY SON IS THE SPAWN OF A WITCH.

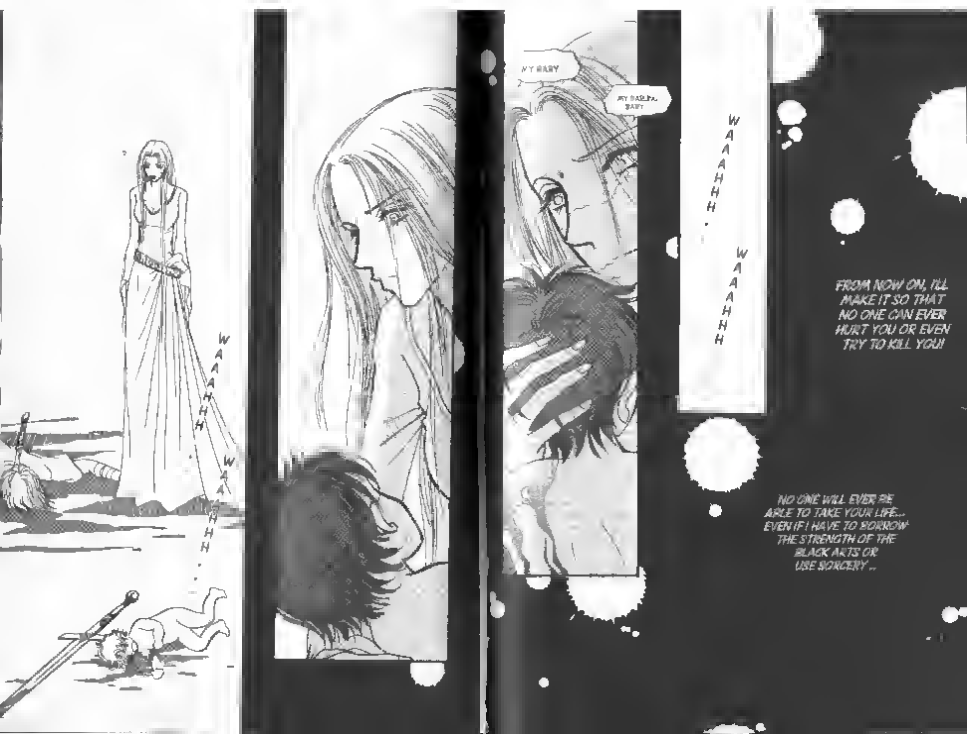
THAT WOULD MEAN MY WIFE, THE MOTHER OF MY SON...
...HAS FILTHY BLOOD.
I HAVE NEVER GIVEN MY HEART TO A WOMAN...
...BECAUSE THE WORLD IS LITTERED WITH WOMEN.
SO WAS THIS ALSO A RESULT OF YOUR DECEITFUL MAGIC? DID YOU STEAL MY HEART AWAY?!
WELL?! SAY SOMETHING!!

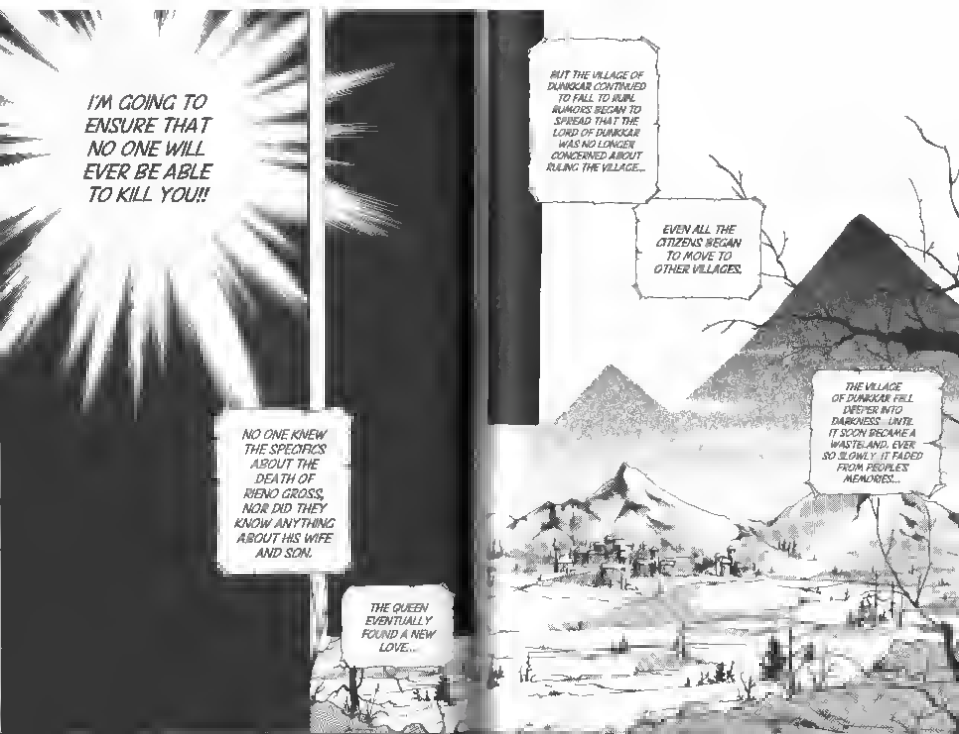

I JUST...
...REALLY WANTED A BABY

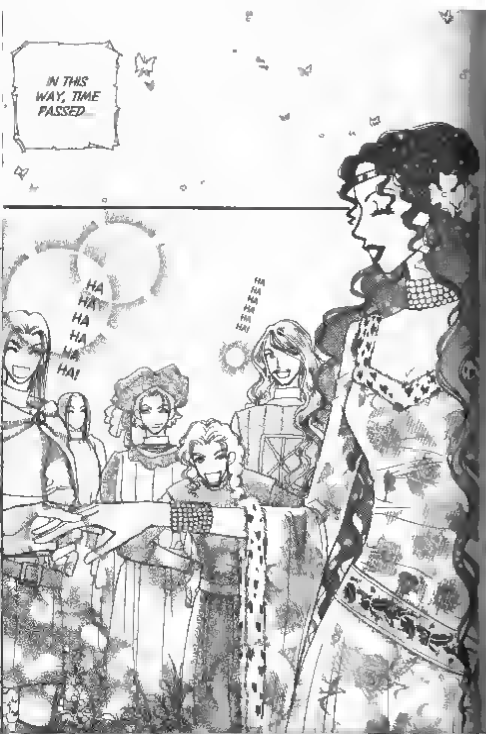
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?!
THAT YOU WANTED A BABY...?!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M GOING TO LET A MONSTER WITH WITCH'S BLOOD LIVE?!

NOOOOOOO!!

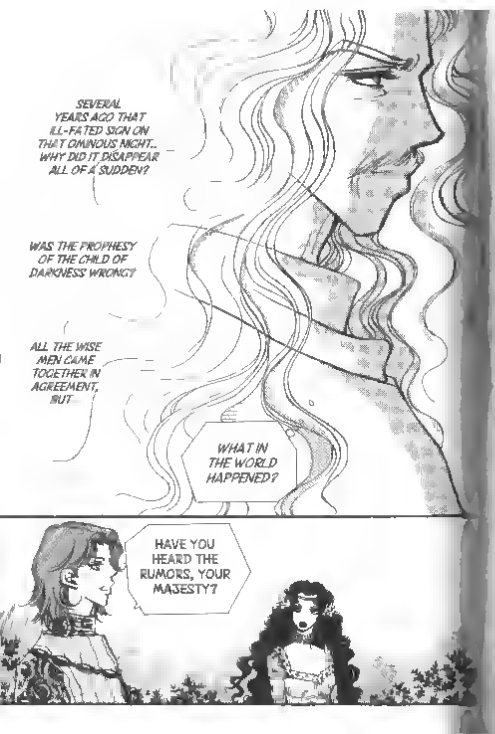


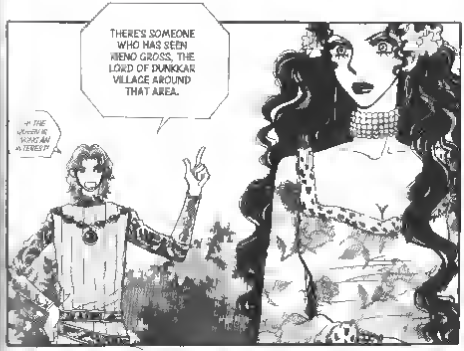

WAAAHHH...
WAAAHHH...
MY BABY
MY BABY... BABY!
WAAAHHH...
WAAAHHH
FROM NOW ON, I'LL MAKE IT SO THAT NO ONE CAN EVER HURT YOU OR EVEN TRY TO KILL YOU!!
NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO TAKE YOUR LIFE... EVEN IF I HAVE TO BORROW THE STRENGTH OF THE BLACK ARTS OR USE SORCERY...


I'M GOING TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO KILL YOU!!
NO ONE KNEW THE SPECIFICS ABOUT THE DEATH OF RIENO GROSS, NOR DID THEY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIS WIFE AND SON.
THE QUEEN EVENTUALLY FOUND A NEW LOVE...
BUT THE VILLAGE OF DUNKKAR CONTINUED TO FALL TO RUIN. RUMORS BEGAN TO SPREAD THAT THE LORD OF DUNKKAR WAS NO LONGER CONCERNED ABOUT RULING THE VILLAGE...
EVEN ALL THE CITIZENS BEGAN TO MOVE TO OTHER VILLAGES.
THE VILLAGE OF DUNKKAR FELL DEEPER INTO DARKNESS... UNTIL IT SOON BECAME A WASTELAND. EVER SO SLOWLY, IT FADED FROM PEOPLES MEMORIES...


IN THIS WAY, TIME PASSED...
HA HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA!

WHEN WILL THE QUEEN'S QUEST FOR LOVE COME TO AN END?
SHE'S CHANGED LOVERS YET AGAIN. WONDER HOW LONG THIS ONE WILL LAST?
SHE HAS NO INTENTION TO MARRY...
WELL, BECAUSE OF HER, SPRING DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'LL END ANYTIME SOON. DOES IT?
BUT I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE...
THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS' PEACEFUL CALM MAKES ME UNEASY FOR SOME REASON.
MAYBE I'M JUST BEING A WORRYWART...?
WHY DO I KEEP GETTING THIS STRANGE, FOREBODING FEELING...?


SEVERAL YEARS AGO THAT ILL-FATED SIGN ON THAT OMINOUS NIGHT.. WHY DID IT DISAPPEAR ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WAS THE PROPHESY OF THE CHILD OF DARKNESS WRONG?
ALL THE WISE MEN CAME TOGETHER IN AGREEMENT, BUT
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED?
HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMORS, YOUR MAJESTY?


THERE'S SOMEONE WHO HAS SEEN KIENO GROSS, THE LORD OF DUNKKAR VILLAGE AROUND THAT AREA.
IS THE VILLAGE HEAD AN HERETIC?

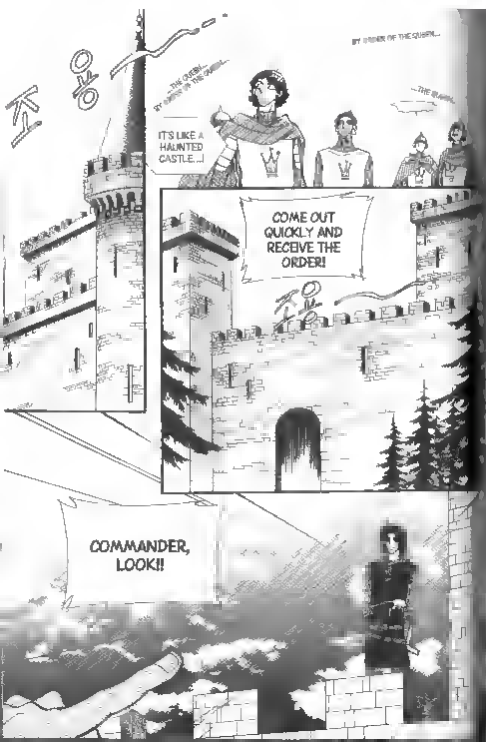
I'M SURE THE MAN SAW A GHOST
SO MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED. HOW COULD HE NOT HAVE AGED AT ALL?
NO, NO... MY UNCLE SAID THAT HE'S GOTTEN EVEN YOUNGER.

IS THAT TRUE?
YES. HE CONFIRMED IT HIMSELF DURING HIS HUNTING TRIP.
THIS IS NOT THE FIRST OF SUCH RUMORS.

GO FIND OUT IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE. EVEN IF IT IS A GHOST...
...I WILL NOT FORGIVE THE SPREADING OF SUCH RUMORS!
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

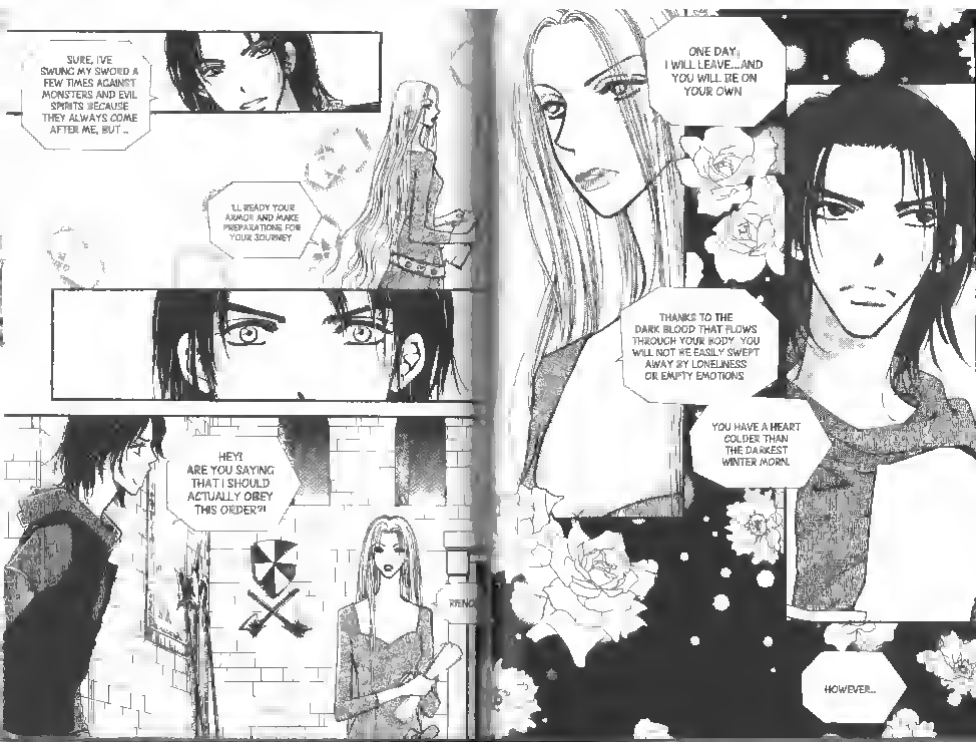
WHOA... WHOA, WOW...!

ARE YOU GATHERING HERBS FROM HERE?
SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED
PEOPLE ARE COMING TO THE CASTLE..
HEAR YE! BY ORDER OF THE QUEEN!


IT'S LIKE A HAUNTED CASTLE...!
COME OUT QUICKLY AND RECEIVE THE ORDER!
COMMANDER, LOOK!!

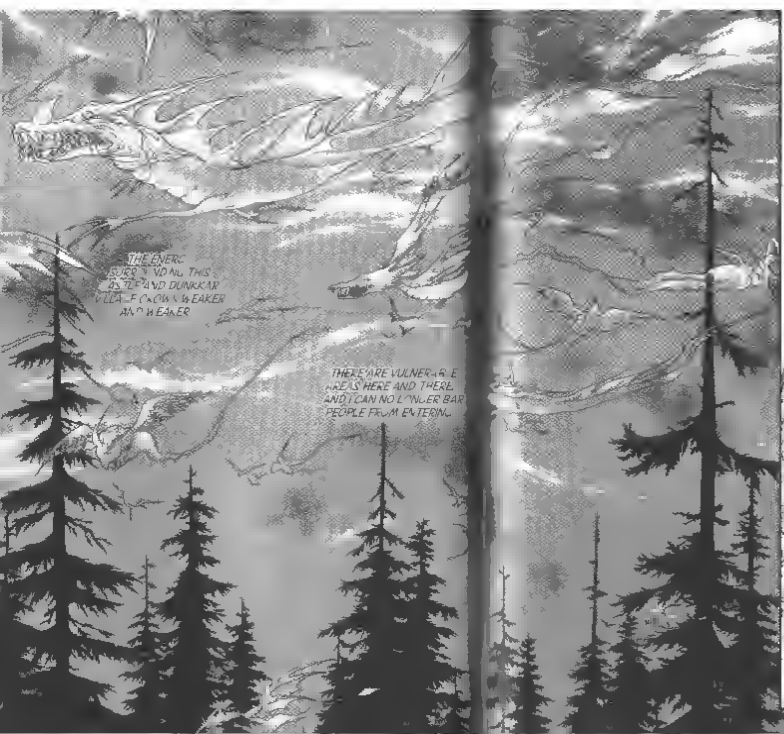
WHO ARE YOU?! AND WHERE IS THE LORD OF DUNKIRK, REINO CROSS?!
WHAT? HE'S JUST A KID?!
WHERE IS THE MASTER OF THE CASTLE?
I AM THE MASTER.
THE RUMORS MUST BE TRUE. THE LORD DIED ...AND HIS SON TOOK OVER...

HMPH.
LET'S GO!
IT ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THE TOURNAMENT.
AND IT SAYS THAT YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN ORDER TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE NEW MASTER OF DUNKKAR AND THIS CASTLE.
HEXE--I'VE NEVER FOUGHT AGAINST A HUMAN BEING BEFORE.


SURE, I'VE SWUNG MY SWORD A FEW TIMES AGAINST MONSTERS AND EVIL SPIRITS BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS COME AFTER ME, BUT...
I'LL READY YOUR ARMOR AND MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR JOURNEY
HEY! ARE YOU SAYING THAT I SHOULD ACTUALLY OBEY THIS ORDER?!
KYENG
ONE DAY, I WILL LEAVE...AND YOU WILL BE ON YOUR OWN
THANKS TO THE DARK BLOOD THAT FLOWS THROUGH YOUR BODY, YOU WILL NOT BE EASILY SWEPT AWAY BY LONELINESS OR EMPTY EMOTIONS
YOU HAVE A HEART COLDER THAN THE DARKEST WINTER MORN.
HOWEVER...

...IT IS NOT GOOD FOR ANYONE WHETHER HUMAN, MONSTER, DEMON, A MEMBER OF THE LIGHT CLAN OR THE DARKNESS TO BE BY THEMSELVES.
YOU CANNOT LIVE HERE IN THIS WASTELAND BY YOURSELF.
ESPECIALLY DURING SPRINGTIME IN PHANTASMA. NO ONE CAN GET AWAY WITH DISOBEYING THE QUEEN'S COMMAND..
THIS VILLAGE OF DUNKKAR HAS BEEN FORSAKEN FOR TOO LONG..
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH PEOPLE LIVING TOGETHER, BUSTLING ABOUT AND EVEN FARMING, TOO-- JUST LIKE OLD TIMES..
THIS IS SOMETHING INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO THE OLD ME...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I ACTUALLY FEAR LONELINESS..

THAT BOY, RENO...
...RESEMBLES HIM MORE WITH EVERY PASSING DAY.
RENO, CROSS...
HMM... THE QUEEN WILL CALL FOR RENO AND TRY TO KILL HIM.
AND THEN...
...WILL IT BE MY TURN?
I'VE USED ALL OF MY ENERGY...
...TRYING TO PROTECT THAT BOY FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS.
BUT SOON, EVEN MY ENERGY WILL HIT ROCK-BOTTOM.


THE ENERG
BUBBLING THIS
BASTARD DUNKKAR
CLEARLY MAKES
ANOTHER
THERE ARE VULNERABLE
AREAS HERE AND THERE,
AND I CAN NO LONGER BAR
PEOPLE FROM ENTERING.

IN A LITTLE WHILE,
THE WORLD WILL
BECOME CONSCIOUS
OF THIS LITTLE BOY
CALLED RIENO...

IF I CAN NO LONGER PROTECT HIM FROM THE POWERS OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS...
THEN I SHOULD SEND HIM OUT. I'VE DONE ALL I CAN FOR HIM.
AOK!

WHAT IN THE WORLD...?! HOW CAN THAT BE...?
THAT KID JUST DEFEATED SOME OF OUR TOP KNIGHTS!
THEN THE RUMORS MUST BE TRUE! HE IS INDEED THE SON OF RENO GROSS!
RENO'S SON AND THE WOMAN WHO BORE HIM WILL BOTH DIE--THIS, I SWEAR!
LOOK OVER THERE!

THE FINAL COMPETITION IS BETWEEN THE QUEEN'S GREATEST KNIGHT, HELMANN, FROM THE HOHU VILLAGE...
...AND THE DANGEROUS HERO RENO OF DUNKOUR, WHO IS TAKING PART IN OUR TOURNAMENT FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.
KILL HIM, HELMANN!
HELMANN IS THE BEST!
HELMANN!
DURING THE TOURNAMENT, I WANT YOU TO DRIVE YOUR SWORD INTO RENO'S HEART. YOU MUSTN'T FAIL!

RAAH!!
WELL... PRETTY MUCH...
BY THE GODS! HE'S STRONG!

FT.MAINE...
HUFF!
THIS IS NO JOKE... THIS KID MAY BE AN AMATEUR, BUT HE SURE DOESN'T FIGHT LIKE IT!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
CRAP! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING DESPERATE!
...!

AGH
I'VE STABBED HIS HEART?!
HUFF! HUFF!
ALLOW ME TO RETURN THE FAVOR...
BROTHER!!

SEARCH EVERY-WHERE!!
BE SURE AS YOU FIND THE WOMAN, KILL HER!!
IT'S A ROYAL ORDER!! YOU MUST FIND HER AND KILL HER!!
THIS WAY...!!
BLOOD STAINS! DON'T LOSE HER! THIS WAY!!
WE'VE FOUND HER!!
-LORD HEIM
HEXE...WE FINALLY MEET!
WHO...?
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT YOUR MAGIC WOULD BE GREAT ENOUGH TO SHIELD THE WHOLE OF RUNNEAR VILLAGE...?
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY WE COULDN'T FIND YOU FOR SO MANY YEARS.

WHY ARE YOU BEING CHASED OUT OF THE PALACE BY THE QUEEN'S SOLDIERS?
WE'VE COME TO PUT YOU ON TRIAL.
WHAT IS IT?

WE'VE TRIED THREE TIMES, BUT HE DOESN'T SHOW ANY RESPONSE AT ALL.
THE POISON DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON HAN STHER...
THAT MAN RIENO APPEARS TO BE INVINCIBLE.
EVEN DURING THE TOURNAMENT, WHEN HERMANN STABBED HIM IN THE HEART...
RIENO SAYS THAT HERMANN MISSED AND STABBED HIM NEAR HIS HEART. BUT THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE.
ON TOP OF THAT, THESE DAYS, EVEN THE QUEEN FINDS HIM IN HER FAVOR...
CHANCELLOR HWEINSUTE!

ARE THE RUMORS TRUE? IS RENO GOING TO BE APPOINTED IN HERMANN'S STEAD...
...AS THE QUEEN'S NEW KNIGHT?!
I HEARD THAT THE QUEEN INTENDS TO RESTORE THE LAND AND THE POSITION OF THE LATE RENO GROSS TO HIS SON!
COLD EYES...
YOU HAVE THE EYES OF A BEAST—ROUGH AND UNTAMED. SUCH A COLD GAZE...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I LAST SAW EYES LIKE THIS...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH YOU?
I'M NOT INTERESTED. NOW THAT I'VE FULLY RECOVERED FROM MY WOUND, I SIMPLY WANT TO RETURN TO DUNKKAR VILLAGE.
HMM
LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON...
BUT...
HE KEYME...

...HMM!
GULP!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT...?!
I SWALLOWED SOMETHING...!

IT'S A LOVE POTION.
A POTION THAT WILL MAKE YOU FALL IN LOVE.
THOSE COLD EYES WILL NOW LOOK AT ME AND BURN WITH PASSION.
YOU'LL BURN... AND BURN YOU'LL ONLY HAVE EYES FOR ME ...ALWAYS..
YOU'LL STRUGGLE BETWEEN SUFFERING AND DELIGHT AND BE CONSUMED WITH PASSION!

HMM. I'VE HEARD OF YOUR BAD HABITS REGARDING MEN...
GULP!
AH, BUT...
NO POT OF NO POISON IN THE WORLD...
WILL CONQUER ME...
I'LL BE THE ONE UPON THE LAST OUNCE OF MY STRENGTH AND MY WITS...ON THE LAST DROP OF MY BLOOD...

RIENO .

AS THE WATER MIRROR REVEALS, POTIONS DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE WITCH'S SON.
THEN WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
MUST WE REALLY RESORT TO SUCH RECKLESS ACTS?
PHANTASMA IS A WORLD THAT EXISTS UPON THE DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN DARKNESS AND LIGHT
FINALLY...WE HAD COME TO REALIZE THE OBJECT OF OUR FEAR THROUGH HEXE'S TRIAL!
NO ONE CAN EVER HARM THAT BOY...
BUT...I WANTED TO PROTECT HIM UNTIL HE REACHED THE AGE OF NINETEEN.
I'VE C.R. [illegible] HEAL MYSELF IN ORDER TO DETACH FROM THE EVIL POWERS OF THAT THING!..
ALTHOUGH HEXE DIDN'T SPEAK OF IT HERSELF, WE COULD CONFIRM IT THE MOMENT WE SAW RIENO! THE WITCH HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO AND RAISED...

...THE SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE OF DARKNESS THAT APPEARED SEVERAL YEARS AGO!!
THE PROPHESY WAS INDEED TRUE...
WE CANNOT BLOCK HIA WITH OUR STRENGTH.
ON TOP OF THAT, HE IS NOW SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD.
THROUGH HEXES MAGIC AND THE POWER OF DARKNESS, HIS BODY HAS BECOME ALMOST INVINCIBLE.
WE CANNOT DETECT A WEAKNESS
BUT WE CAN'T JUST SIT IDLY BY UNTIL RIENO TURNS NINETEEN...!

WORLD OF LIGHT! IN PHANTASMA DURING THIS DRAWN-OUT SPRINGTIME...
THE POWERS OF DARKNESS WILL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN STRENGTH...
WE MUST GET RID OF RIBNO!
IF WE DO NOT STOP HIM, THE ONLY FUTURE PHANTASMA WILL HAVE IS ONE OF ETERNAL DARKNESS.

IF THAT HAPPENS, THE LIGHT CLAN WILL HAVE NOWHERE TO GO.
HEXE!
THIS IS THE END OF SPRING IN PHANTASMA...
HEXE...?
HEXE?
HEXE?!

WE CANNOT JUST WATCH...
...AS THE WITCH'S SON...RIENO...
...
...AWAKENS TO THE POWERS OF DARKNESS INSIDE HIM.
THAT BOY... THE VESSEL OF OUR DOOM...

HERE...
...MUST NEVER COME TO RULE PHANTASMA AS LORD OF DARKNESS!!
WE MUST KILL HIM BEFORE THAT DESIRE AWAKENS INSIDE HIM!!
IF WE CANNOT STOP HIM WITH OUR STRENGTH...
...UNTIL WE CAN COME UP WITH A METHOD...
...UNTIL WE CAN DISCOVER SHENO'S WEAKNESS...
...UNTIL THEN WE WILL STOP TIME IN PHANTASMA.

BY THE REQUEST OF THE FAIRY KING, WHO IS THE GUARDIAN OF THE LIGHT CLAN...
...I SENT THE QUEEN A LOVE POTION.
AS EXPECTED, IT DID NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON RENO...
IN THE WATER MIRROR, WE JUST SAW THE QUEEN AND RENO TAKING IT
SO, EHREN...?
QUEEN FREYJA LOST ALL CONTROL AFTERWARD BECAUSE OF THAT POTION.
THE POTION WILL CAUSE THE QUEEN TO GO MAD WITH BURNING PASSION. IN ORDER TO PREVENT RENO'S MATURATION...
...WE'LL CALL FORTH WINTER TO PHANTASMA.
THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT NO ONE EXCEPT THE QUEEN COULD HAVE DONE.

HOWEVER, IF SPRING CONTINUES, RENO WILL TRANSFORM

YOU REALLY ARE SOMETHING! YOU TOO, HEH...!

EVEN THE LIGHT CLAN!!!

HOW COULD YOU HAVE KEPT THIS A SECRET UNTIL NOW?!

SO JUST WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO SAY TO YUNA AND I?!

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

IN SEARCH OF PHANTASMA...

PHANTASMA? ISN'T THAT THE PLACE YOU GO TO MEET RENO?

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

...I'M THINKING OF TELLING A DIFFERENT STORY THIS TIME.

THE LOCATION OF PHANTASMA, THE NAMES AND MODELS THAT WERE USED IN THE STORY...

PHANTASMA WAS INSPIRED BY A SMALL REGION NEAR THE SOUTH OF GERMANY NAMED FÜSSEN.

FÜSSEN IS NEAR THE AUSTRIAN BORDER, AT THE FOOT OF THE BAVARIAN ALPS. ITS ALTITUDE IS 800 METERS. IT IS A ROMANTIC CITY WITH LOTS OF MOUNTAINS AND LAKES.

WE'LL HAVE TO WALK A MILLION MILES TO GET TO THE CASTLE, YOU GUYS!!
YOU'LL HAVE TO WALK ALL THE WAY UP THE MOUNTAIN TO GET THERE, YUNA CAME HERE ALONE!

I COULDN'T FIND A PICTURE THAT COULD DO FÜSSEN JUSTICE IN DEPICTING ITS TRUE BEAUTY... I JUST HAD TO SETTLE FOR ONE OF MY OLD TRAVEL PHOTOS.

FOUR KILOMETERS AWAY FROM FÜSSEN IS THE SCHWANKOU FOREST. ON A CLIFF IS A FAIRY TALE CASTLE THAT WAS BUILT BY THE LAST EMPEROR OF GERMANY. KING LUDWIG II, AND CALLED NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE—OR SWAN CASTLE.

KING LUDWIG II WAS A GREAT FAN OF WAGNER. HE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE IMAGE OF SWANS BECAUSE OF WAGNER. IN THE CASTLE, THERE ARE MANY IMAGES OF SWANS HERE AND THERE...

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE MANY MURALS WITHIN THE CASTLE ITSELF THAT ARE BASED UPON THE LEGENDS WAGNER USED IN HIS OPERAS, SUCH AS "DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN," "TRISTAN UND ISOLDE," "PARSIFAL," AND "TANNHÄUSER," ETC.

IN MY ADOLESCENCE, I USED TO POUR OVER THE BOOKS IN MY FATHER'S STUDY THAT SHOWED PICTURES OF NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE AND THE WALL MURALS WITHIN IT. I BECAME ENGROSSED WITH STORIES OF KNIGHTS IN THE MIDDLE AGES AND CASTLES OF ALL KINDS.

I WOULD PICTURE MY FAVORITE SCENES...

I WANTED TO...

I WANTED TO MAKE A STORY WITH THE MEN OF SUBSTANCE I'D SEEN IN...

HOW GREAT WOULD IT BE IF I WERE ABLE TO GO TO THESE PLACES?

WITH THAT, I BEGAN TO BRING TOGETHER THE STORIES OF WAGNER'S MUSIC AND THE PICTURES THAT I'D SEEN IN THE BOOKS.

BY THE TIME I FINALLY WENT TO VISIT GERMANY FOR MYSELF...

WOW...

THIS WILL BE THE STAGE FOR MY NEXT MASTERPIECE! I NEED TO REMEMBER ALL OF THIS...

I'LL DRAW THAT CASTLE! THE FIGURES... THE SKY... ALL THE NATURE IN THIS PLACE...

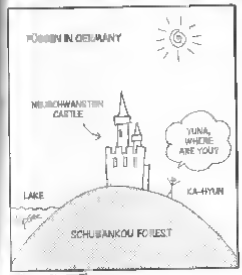
WENO AND YUNA WILL MEET HERE IN THIS PLACE! IT'S SO INEVITABLE...

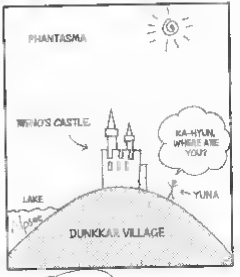
IF YOU'RE A[illegible] NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE, YOU REACH A [illegible] CALLED MARIA ABOVE THAT GORGE IS THE MARIEN BRÜCKE BRIDGE, WHICH YOU STAND THERE AND TAKE [illegible] OF THE LAKE, THE VILLAGE, THE MOUNTAINS, VILLAGES, CLOUDS, AND THE SKY. THERE ARE GENERALLY SECOND AND THIRD

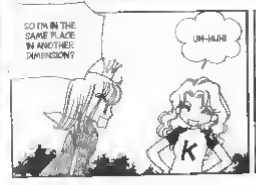
THE VILLAGE OF DUNKKAR, OF WHICH RIENO IS LORD, IS BASED ON A SMALL VILLAGE SURROUNDING NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE (EVEN THOUGH IN THE STORY, DUNKKAR IS NOWHERE NEAR A CLIFF AND STONES).

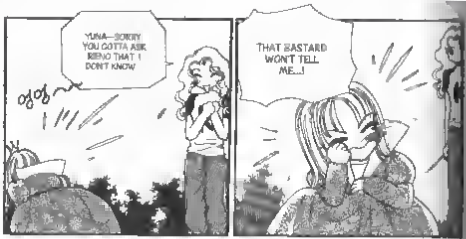
THIS MEANS THAT PHANTASMA IS BASED IN THE REGION OF FÜSSEN AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS, BUT IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION.

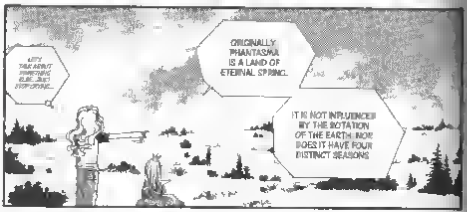
I WONDER IF THERE'S SOMEBODY FAMOUS IN A CITY OF LOCATED LIKE THAT.
PAST (NAME).
OOH~ IT'S TOO DIFFICULT...
SORRY...! IF I WERE TO EXPLAIN IT ONE MORE TIME...



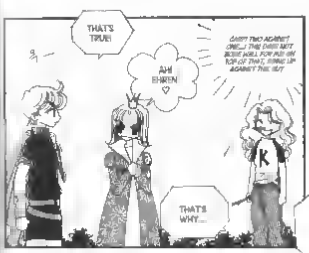







LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE...BUT EVERYTHING...
ORIGINALLY PHANTASMA IS A LAND OF ETERNAL SPRING.
IT IS NOT INFLUENCED BY THE ROTATION OF THE EARTH...NOR DOES IT HAVE FOUR DISTINCT SEASONS

HOW CAN THAT BE?! THAT'S SO UNCONVINCING! YOU'RE A COMPLETELY IRRESPONSIBLE AUTHOR!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT WRITING DRAMA STORIES!
TH-THAT'S BECAUSE... THIS IS A WORLD IN ANOTHER DIMENSION!
THE ONLY THING THAT INFLUENCES SEASONAL CHANGE IN PHANTASMA IS THE POWER OF THE QUEEN'S LOVE...
RIGHT! THAT'S WHY M HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME HERE!


THAT'S TRUE!
AH! EHREN ♡
SADLY THEY AGAINST ONE ANOTHER ONCE THE EVIL SPIRIT BEGINS WILL FOR ALL ON TOP OF THAT, RISING UP AGAINST THIS CITY
THAT'S WHY...
...ORIGINALLY PHANTASMA WAS A WORLD OF BALANCE BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS.
LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT SO THAT IT'S MORE BEARABLE FOR ME.
AFTER THE QUEEN WAS SELECTED FROM THE LINE OF FAIRIES OF THE LIGHT CLAN...

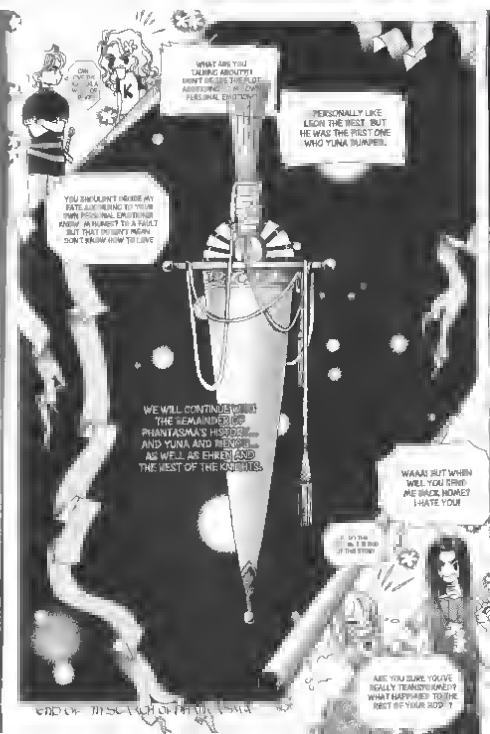
ONCE SPRING LASTED FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME, THE POWERS OF DARKNESS WERE GREATLY DIMINISHED AND INSTEAD LIGHT POWER (DENSITY) INCREASED TREMENDOUSLY.

IN TERMS OF PHYSICS, THE MASS REMAINED THE SAME, BUT SINCE THE VOLUME DECREASED THE DENSITY INCREASED ALL THE MORE.

Density = Mass / Volume

BUT WHY?! WHY HID THE QUEEN ONLY ASSOCIATE WITH THE LIGHT CLAN?
DIDN'T YOU THINK IT'S BECAUSE LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS ARE MORE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE LIGHT CLAN?
HMMTTE!
THAT'S RIGHT...! CAN TELL WHEN LOOK AT EHREN!
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE NOT HER TO SAY THAT WHEN SHE DOESN'T KNOW BEING'S TRUE IDENTITY?
HE, NOW, I'M STRONG.

IT'S BETTER THAN I HAD IMAGINED!
AUTHOR IN TRIP
ONE OF THE PRIMARY REASONS WHY I USED FÜSSEN AS THE MODEL FOR PHANTASIMA IS BECAUSE THE WEATHER WAS NICER THERE THAN IN THE NORTH. ALSO, THERE ARE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS AND LAKES SURROUNDING THE AREA, AS WELL AS PICTURESQUE NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE.
THE MOTIF FOR THE STORY OF RENO AND HEXE WAS INSPIRED BY MECANO'S "HIJO DE LA LUNA." I


OH, LOOK! THE LOVE BIRDS ARE BACK!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I DON'T HAVE THE FOR ANYONE! I'M CAN FUNCTIONAL EMOTION!
PERSONALLY, LIKE LEON THE BEST, BUT HE WAS THE FIRST ONE WHO YUNA DUMPED.
YOU SHOULDN'T INVOLVE MY FATE AND RENO TO YOUR OWN PERSONAL EMOTIONS! KNOW AN INJECT TO A FAULT BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN DON'T KNOW HOW TO LOVE
WE WILL CONTINUE WITH THE REMAINDER OF PHANTASIMA'S HISTORY... AND YUNA AND RENO... AS WELL AS EHRED AND THE REST OF THE KNIGHTS.
WAAA! BUT WHEN WILL YOU SEND ME BACK HOME? I HATE YOU!
AT THE END OF THE STORY
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE REALLY TRANSFORMED? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REST OF YOUR BODY?
END OF MYSTERIOUS TRIP